REMARKS

Claims 1-18 are now pending in the application. Claims 2-18 have been withdrawn from consideration.

I. Informality

Claim 1 was objected to because “the numeric keyboard” in line 2 should be “a numeric keyboard”. The claim has been corrected accordingly to overcome this objection.

II. 35 U.S.C. 102(e)

Elected claim 1 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as anticipated by McLoone et al., U.S. Patent No. 6, 712, 535. Figure 1 of the McLoone et al. patent shows a dual function Tab/Numbers Lock key in the numeric section of the keyboard 28 that requires several keystrokes to tab to a new data entry field as described below. By contrast, Applicant’s tab key as now more clearly claimed is a dedicated or single function tab key that quickly and efficiently, with a single keystroke, tabs to the new data entry field for numerical data entry. Morever, the McLoone et al. keyboard may require that a shift key or the like be activated to switch between the Tab and Numbers lock functions. The necessity for using such a shift key or the like (which in the case of a traditional shift key may be located on the far left of the keyboard) teaches away from Applicant’s claimed invention which is directed to dispensing with keys on the far left of the keyboard and with additional movements generally (e.g. finding the mouse).

Dual function keys, such as the Tab/NumLock key on the McLoone et al keyboard, permit the user to alternate between functions, typically by depressing a “Shift” key and allow for multiplicity of functions greater than the number of keys on a keyboard. The Tab and Numbers lock functions are believed to be alternative functions to each other such that when the NumLock function is activated, the Tab function is not operational. During normal numerical data entry, the NumLock function is operational which means that the Tab function is turned off. Therefore, data entry operators who need to input vast amounts of numerical data by touch and into data entry fields, using the McLoone et al. keyboard, would have to twice depress the NumLock/Tab key each time the data entry field was to be changed to first change it to a tab function and then to return it to a numbers function. It is unclear from McLoone if the one key is used to switch between tab and number functions (although this does not seem to be operable) or if a traditional shift key on the far left side of the keyboard is used to switch between tab and numerical functions. If either case, more than a single keystroke of a dedicated Tab key is needed to change data fields for numerical data entry. Applicant's invention permits the numerical data entry operator to change data fields with a single keystroke on the TAB key.

Moreover, to the extent that a shift button or the like is used in McLoone to shift between Tab and numbers functions, that arrangement would not permit the user to tab to a new data entry field by "depressing the "tab" key without said user moving his or her first hand from said numeric keyboard section when depressing said tab key with said first hand" as claimed in amended Claim 1.

Based on the foregoing, reconsideration and withdrawal of the 102 rejection based on McLoone et al. is respectfully requested. Applicant submits that the present application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection and rejection set forth in the above-noted Office Action and an early Notice of Allowance are requested.

If the Examiner has any comments or suggestions that could place this application in even better form, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the below-listed number.

If there are any additional fees incurred by this Amendment, please deduct them from our Deposit Account No. 23-0830.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: 5/16/05

Janine R. Novatt
Janine Rickman Novatt
Reg. No. 32, 593

Weiss, Moy & Harris, LLP
4204 N. Brown Avenue
Scottsdale, AZ 85251
(480)994-8888